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HON. R. W. MILLS.

Hon. Richard Watson Mills, an active member of the State Historical Society, after a protracted illness, died at his home in Jacksonville, Illinois, at 1:00 o'clock P. M., on the 29th of November, 1909. He was a native of Illinois, born in Morgan county, on the 3d of August, 1844, and a descendent of very early Illinois pioneers. His maternal grandfather was Dr. George Cadwell, who came here from New England in 1804, and located in Madison county, which he represented in the Senate of the first and second General Assemblies of the State. In 1821 Dr. Cadwell located in Morgan (then Greene) county, and there resided until his death in 1826. Dr. Cadwell's wife, Pamela Lyon, was a daughter of the famed Matthew Lyon, who was a colonel in the Revolutionary war, and the first victim of the "Sedition Act," passed by Congress during the administration of John Adams. Col. Lyon had the further distinction of serving as a member of Congress from Vermont, and for four terms from the state of Kentucky, and also one term as Representative from the territory of Arkansas.

The father of Richard W. Mills (Chesley L. Mills) was a native of Tennessee, whose ancestors came from England to Maryland with Sir Cecilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, in the 17th century.

Until he was nine years of age Richard W. Mills, and his mother, resided on the farm with his widowed grandmother, Mrs. Cadwell. Then for two years the lad was with other relatives near White Hall for the convenience of school attendance. Returning to the old farm he attended neighboring country schools during the winter

seasons, and during the milder months was a practical farmer. On the beginning of hostilities, early in 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co. B, 10th Illinois Infantry, the first company of Illinois volunteers to reach Cairo. There, instead of being mustered into active service, to his intense disgust, he was rejected, as too young, and sent back home. He was at home, however, but a month when he slipped away and joined Co. F. of the 19th Volunteer Infantry, in which he served with much credit for three years in the arduous campaigns from Nashville to Stone River, and in 1864 was honorably discharged.

Returning home he resumed his interrupted studies; then for awhile taught school, in the mean time pursuing the study of law under the tutelage of Hon. Cyrus Epler, of Jacksonville. Admitted to the bar in 1869, he located in Virginia, the county seat of Cass county, where he served for six years as a master in chancery, and was engaged in a very large and lucrative practice of his profession until within a few months of his death.

Mr. Mills was physically a fine type of robust manhood. Almost six feet in height, squarely and compactly built; his complexion was fair, eyes gray, hair dark, and his regular features expressive of genial kindness. The predominant traits of his character were sterling manhood, honor, integrity and big-hearted generosity. His energy was tireless. Shrewd and exacting in business, he was in all his social and domestic relations one of the most affable, benevolent and charitable of men. Not gifted with flowery eloquence, he yet was a forcible advocate, and popular, successful lawyer, commencing life in dire poverty and laying it down in opulence.

Politically he was an ardent Republican, but excepting his attendance as a delegate at the national convention of his party in 1888, took no active part in political affairs. Since 1869 he was a member of the Masonic order, and for the past twenty-three years has been a Knight Templar. For twenty years he has also been a

Presbyterian, and at his death was a trustee of the church of that denomination in the city of Virginia.

On February 4, 1873, Mr. Mills was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Tate, of Virginia, who was taken from him by death on March 26, 1884. He was again married, on November 28, 1889, to Miss Nellie Woodman Epler, daughter of Mr. Wm. Epler, of Cass county, who survives him with two sons aged 13 and 16, respectively.

DR. WILLIAM P. SHORT.

Dr. William Pleasant Short, one of the oldest native-born citizens of central Illinois, died at the St. Clair hospital in Lincoln, Logan county, on Monday, Jan. 10, 1910, at the age of 90 years, 7 months and 5 days. He was born on the banks of Indian creek, near Indian Point, in Menard (then Madison) county, on June 5, 1819, and resided there with his parents until he was 20 years old, when he established an old-time flatboat ferry across Salt Creek on the line between the present Mason and Logan counties. A few years later he married a Miss Roll and settled on a farm west of Mason City, and there resided the balance of his life. He was perhaps the first practicing physician in that section of the State, continuing his professional work until the civil war, when he retired from it and devoted his attention to farming exclusively. His wife died fifteen years ago, after they had lived together on the old farm for over half a century. Two sons survive him.

DEATH OF MRS. GEORGE W. SMITH.

Mrs. Maria Louisa Smith, a lady of distinguished Illinois lineage, was born in Belleville, Illinois, on November 16, 1844, and died at her residence, 205 Goethe street, Chicago, on the 11th of December, 1909. She was the